

State Energy Program/Rebuild America National Conference Update

U.S. Department of Energy • Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Thursday, August 1, 2002

Conference Succeeds in Blending Programs and Partner Interests

Federal, state and local officials and a number of entrepreneurial businesses have been learning and networking through three days and nights of a conference dedicated to energy efficiency.

The 2002 State Energy Program/Rebuild America National Conference may have surprised some people with its coordination and support. Avoiding the pitfalls that could await a first joint national meeting of two federal programs, the conference has provided attendees with ideas, knowledge, networking opportunities and a taste of New Orleans.

The involvement of businesses has been especially significant – financial support for the meeting, exhibits to show off products and services, speakers at several sessions and executives trying to get to know current and potential project partners better.

Thanks were owed to the sponsors and exhibitors for making the Monday evening welcoming reception possible, and to the sponsors for making the Wednesday evening reception at Generations Hall possible. The top sponsor, **Siemens Building Technologies**, also provided the Cyber Café next to the Exhibit Hall in the Hotel Inter-Continental.

Other sponsors were **Angelo Brothers/Westinghouse, Entergy, Honeywell International, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, Magnaray® International, McQuay International, TRACO, Trane and Universal Natural Light.**

David Garman, assistant secretary for energy efficiency and renewable energy, did his part to rally the troops at the Tuesday plenary session, after which he took time for interviews with reporters before he headed for the airport.

At Wednesday's plenary meeting, the audience found motivation in laughter. Speaker John Powers offered ideas on how to create a healthy social climate in the



Folks renew their energy at Generations Hall gala.

workplace, but his trump card was wit, something that no workplace should be without.

Wednesday evening was the time for “Celebrate New Orleans: Taste of the Crescent City” -- a reception offering music, food and history at Generations Hall.

Buses shuttled people from the Hotel Inter-Continental to the historic hall. The building dates back to the early 1820s, when it was Thompson's Sugar Refinery. After about 60 years, the owners went out of business, and the building was taken over by A. Baldwin, a young and prosperous entrepreneur. It was then used as a warehouse to store cotton, and

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Agenda for Today

(Rooms are noted in parentheses)

7:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Registration/Information Desk Open

8:00 - 8:50 a.m. Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Plenary

9:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Break

10:15 - 11:45 a.m. Concurrent :

Technology Supply, Demand and Distributed Generation (Pelican 1)

Technology Advancements Tapping

Geothermal Resources (Pelican 2)

Programs Expanding Our Reach (Pontalba)

Programs Exploring WinSAGA: A

Journey for Non-Users (Poydras)

Interconnections Strategies for

Maximizing EEE Benefits (Cabildo)

Interconnections Energy Efficiency in

Public Housing (Vieux Carre A)

Markets Improving Efficiency through

Building Codes (Vieux Carre B)

12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m. Awards

Luncheon

1:30 p.m. Conference Adjourns

Better Engines Off the Road

Industry has built energy-efficient technology into automobile engines for years, but the average lawn mower’s design wastes energy and pollutes heavily – something easily remedied through new and existing technology, according to presenters at a Wednesday conference session.

Thomas Bingham, a Senior Engineer with **American Honda Motor**, explained how two-stroke engines can waste one-third of fuel compared with overhead-valve engines that are 20 to 30 percent more efficient.

J.Rex Greer, President of **Pony Pack Inc.**, showcased his company’s small engine, which can reduce fuel use and emissions by 80 to 90 percent.



Rebuild America Business Partners at a Monday summit received certificates of recognition for contributions to the program.

Making the Most of Building Retrofits

Simply retrofitting buildings will save money, but designing a retrofit finely tuned to individual facilities’ needs will maximize energy-saving efforts, presenters explained Wednesday afternoon.

A full room of attendees learned how to prioritize their retrofit projects at the “Making the Most of Your Building Retrofits” session.

Terry Massey, a Business Development Manager with **Siemens**, presented tips for maximizing the results of retrofits. Massey’s most important recommendation encouraged building operators to create a priority index to identify essential retrofits from less pressing improvements. By targeting key changes, operators can keep costs down while achieving the deepest cuts in energy consumption.

Bret Hunter, President of Hunter Consulting, echoed Massey’s claims and encouraged the use of performance contracting to finance those retrofits. And Larry Leetzow of the World Institute of Lighting and Development Corporation – **Magnaray® International** Division emphasized the ease and benefits of lighting retrofits.

Outdoor fluorescent lighting with motion sensors, Leetzow said, allows lights to be lit when needed. These reap savings of up to 96 percent when compared with traditional high-pressure sodium lighting.

Communities Use Alternate Fuels to Create Clean Cities

As smog pollution continues to plague our urban areas and the need to secure our energy supply mounts, the Clean Cities program is one way to encourage investment in low- or zero-emissions vehicles to meet our transportation needs.

In a morning session, Beverly Miller with Salt Lake Clean Cities and Patrick Bolton with the **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority** (NYSERDA) spoke about Clean Cities.

The session detailed the progression of alternative fuels, vehicles and infrastructure into the market. Miller explained that in the post-9/11 climate, Clean Cities is even more vital to reduce and ultimately eliminate our nation’s dependence on energy from other countries, some hostile.

“That is the primary challenge,” Miller said.

Clean Cities is a U.S. Department of Energy program housed in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. Part of the new Weatherization

and Intergovernmental Programs Office, it is a sister program of the State Energy Program and Rebuild America.

Its mission is to encourage alternative fuels and the vehicles they power. Such vehicles have difficulty entering the mainstream because of cost and infrastructure concerns. Through coalitions across the country, Clean Cities promotes those goals with technical assistance, education and other resources.

Bolton of NYSERDA outlined the various programs in New York under its Clean Cities coalition. Ranging from clean bus programs to the New York City Clean Fuel Taxi Program, NYSERDA has invested \$31 million – through fiscal assistance – and reaped substantial rewards. Results include 102 hybrid electric buses, 300 compressed natural gas (CNG) taxicabs, and \$90,000 in training programs.

Pollution reductions are significant as well, lowering nitrogen oxide emissions by 1,550 tons and particulate matter by 50 tons.





The Exhibit Hall drew a crowd of conference attendees who want to learn about technologies and services.

Conference Not Done With Its Work But Finding Time for Fun

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later pumping equipment. Baldwin invented the first pumping station in New Orleans. Since the early 1900s, the building has changed ownership many times, but it was primarily used for storage of cotton until the 1940s.

On Wednesday evening, Generations Hall was fulfilling its modern role – making people welcome with distinctive food and music in a convivial atmosphere.

Outside were the pedicabs of Kronosport Inc., an entrepreneurial startup company based in Philadelphia. The company's vehicles – appropriately for a conference

devoted to energy efficiency – rely on pedal power with only an assist from a battery. They have the potential to fill such roles as golf carts, warehouse merchandise movers, airport terminal transporters and general utilitarian vehicles for use in gardens or elsewhere, not to mention competing with bicycles and taxicabs on the streets.

For Thursday's plenary session, Louisiana State Sen. Melvin "Kip" Holden was scheduled to speak, followed by more informational sessions and then a luncheon during which awards were to be given to people and partnerships that have done noteworthy work for the State Energy Program and Rebuild America.